Parents/Guardians:

Your child has enrolled in the Forensic Science elective at Pleasant Valley High School. This course is a rigorous course that primarily counts as an elective, but can double as a science credit. Content covered in this class can be deemed offensive and graphic to some audiences. It is by no means intended to be offensive, but simply due to the nature of forensic science, graphic content is unavoidable.

Throughout the school year, we will cover many topics including: trace evidence, firearms, crime scene reconstruction, toolmark impressions, DNA analysis, forensic psychology, serology, computer forensics, and sex crimes. The most graphic of these units is the sex crimes unit. This unit comes at the end of the serology unit, and contains information pertaining to the investigations of sexual assault, rape, and sodomy. We will access Alabama’s Sexual Offender Registry, perform lectures on rape kits, and have a graphic discussion of the court process for such crimes. I understand that this is a very sensitive subject for some students and you as parents. If you or your child ever feel uncomfortable with the content during this unit or any other, please have you or the student express discomfort and an alternate assignment will be given. I have issued these alternate assignments in the past, and will gladly do it again, if needed.

Along with regular lecture material, several lab activities will be performed to enhance the content of the class. We will accompany each unit with one or more case studies. These case studies may also contain graphic content and crime scene photographs. Again, these are unavoidable given the material that must be covered in order to satisfy the Alabama Course of Study.

We will also watch a few films that may be deemed offensive. The first film we will watch is *Zodiac*, a recent movie depicting the unsolved Zodiac Killer case in California. The second is *Catch Me If You Can*, a film depicting the true story of a young man who forges his entire life into a false world. Finally, we will use the film *Saw* as an assessment for the Forensic Psychology unit. This film is by far the most graphic of the three and I have given alternate assignments to students every year that I have shown the film. As with a unit in general, if you or your child deems any of the films offensive, please let me know so that an alternate assignment will be given.

I am asking your support and backing for the course project. The students will be writing a full research paper on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This project will be presented to the students in November and will be due in late April. This project is very time consuming and I am asking that you please encourage your student to meet the deadlines that I set. It is almost impossible to pass the class without the completion of the research paper.

I truly look forward to having some of your students for the first time, and some for the second or third time. I try my hardest to make learning fun and exciting. I hope that you and your student enjoy the class and all of the interesting “dinner time” discussions that may occur as a result of the content covered in the class.

Many Thanks,

Mr. Adam Goosby, BSE

Forensic Science Instructor, Pleasant Valley High School

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